developing countries in many ways resulting in changes in frequency, duration and intensity of extreme events such as heat waves and heavy precipitation events. Government of India is conscious of the implications of climate change and has been implementing various programs addressing climate variability concerns, the expenditure of which accounts for 2.6 % of our GDP in 2006-07. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures, and research on drought resistant crops, and several others. Further, the Government has set up the "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" on 7th May, 2007 under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts. In addition, a Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th June, 2007 constituting eminent persons to evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the National level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment.

Seven amenities and services to the urban poor

*309. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to ensure that every urban resident in the country has assured access to the "seven amenities and services to the urban poor";

(b) the seven amenities referred to above;

(c) the priority of each of the seven amenities in descending order;

(d) whether any study on the existence or absence of the seven amenities has been done, State-wise;

(e) if not, in what manner Government, would be able to provide and evolve decisions to meet the demands and needs; and

(f) the steps proposed to carefully study all urban habitats on the status of the seven amenities?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched in December, 2005 stipulates a mandatory reform for Urban Local Bodies in terms of providing seven amenities and services to the urban poor: security of tenure, affordable housing, water supply, sanitation and ensuring appropriate delivery of existing services of the Government relating to education, health and social security.

(c) No *inter-se* priority has been fixed by the Government for the seven amenities.

(d) to (f) No State-wise study relating to deficiencies in the seven amenities has been done. However, the Government of India has requested all States/Union Territories to conduct socio-economic surveys in slums, prepare time-bound action plans for cities/towns and submit DPRs for Central funding under JNNURM so that the seven amenities could be provided to the urban poor. Under JNNURM, Central grants are combined with funds from State Governments, ULBs/Parastatals and Beneficiaries' contribution with a view to pooling of

resources for provision of basic services to the urban poor. Further, it is indicated that projects with a total cost of Rs. 14583.91 crores have been approved by the Central Government under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of JNNURM relating to provision of basic services to the urban poor.

Extinction of lions and tigers

†*310. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lions and tigers are going to be included in the list of animals nearing extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated any effective scheme for their growth and steps have been taken for the protection of environment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Lions and tigers have been accordded highest statutory protection, considering their endangered status and have been placed under the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, since its enactment.

(b) and (c) Central Assistance is provided to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Project Tiger" and "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", for protection and conservation of wild animals including tigers and lions. Other initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of wild animals are given in the Statement. (Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to SQ 304 Part (c)

Prices of coal

†*311. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited shall undertake yearly review with a view to increasing prices of coal for selling the same to the power companies;

(b) if so, the reasons for increasing the prices of coal;

(c) whether increase in the policies of coal shall result in costly electricity and that the cost of products manufactured by using electricity shall also go up as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that prices of coal do not go up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) With de-regulation of pricing of Coal with effect from 1/1/2000, Coal companies are fully empowered to fix the prices of Coal. Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies determine the prices of Coal keeping in view various factors including escalation of input prices, market situation, impact on consuming sectors, etc. The last revision of prices by Coal India Limited was done in June, 2004, *i.e.* more than 3 years back.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.